Police Corruption Networks – The First and Second Joke

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Background

- Study of Fitzgerald, Wood and Kennedy inquiries into police corruption
  - This paper will look at Fitzgerald

- Goals of this study:
  - Predatory Policing
  - Police networks as organised crime

- Method - Social Network Analysis

- Phenomenon has not been well studied
  - Policy analysis – what ‘ought’ to be
  - But not practice – the ‘is’ practice of corrupt networks
  - Past intervention – institutive & aspirational
Predatory Policing

- Two types of police corruption
  - Passive
  - Predatory (Gerber and Mendelson 2008)

- Passive - accept bribes to look the other way
  - does not need a network

- Predatory – extort money from criminals
  - Protection racket that requires insiders in key positions to provide warnings and intelligence

- Predatory policing is a form of organised crime
  - Money lost
  - Public confidence
  - Growth of criminal activity
Dark Networks

- Networks – form of social organisation
  - trust, mutuality and reciprocity, common norms maintained through sanction (stigma), to bind individuals to a collective unit.

- Networks are neutral
  - Network characteristics can be leveraged to benefit individuals, groups or businesses or society at large; OR
  - Network achievements can come at the cost of other individuals, groups or societies.

- Dark Networks are secret & invisible in their activities

- Illegal activities become ‘law unto themselves’ & protect themselves from the sanctions of outside world
Methodology

- **Data from official investigative sources**
  - Fitzgerald Commission of Inquiry into
  - Herbert’s (The Bag Man) autobiography
    - Identify links/relationships
    - Bribes, The Joke Payment & Corrupt Support

- **Social network analysis**
  - Visual representation (maps)
  - Network Metrics
    - Density – cohesion
    - Centrality -
    - Average path distance -

- **Limitations**
  - Imperfect data sources–
    - but official inquiry data – supported by investigation
  - Some people mentioned dispute the facts
  - More reliable data than studying other forms of organised crime
History of ‘The Joke’

- Police corruption existed 1950-1980s
- Money from illegal gambling & prostitution to the ‘licensing branch, QPS
- Payments to an organiser in the branch – who shared the money amongst members of licensing branch & senior police including the police commissioner
- In return the gambling & prostitution interests were protected from prosecution
First Joke

Illegal Gambling Operators

SP Bookies

Protection

$l$

Rat Pack
Tony Murphy
Terry Lewis
Glen Hallahan

Queensland Police

Protection

$l$

Licensing Branch inc.
Jack Herbert (Organiser)

Police Commissioner and other Senior Police

Police Union

Support

Premier

Support

Police Union

Support
First Joke
Police Minister, Hodges, employed outsider, Whitrod, as police commissioner
Whitrod moved ‘bad eggs’, Lewis and Murphy, to western Queensland thereby taking them out of the loop
Two key connections – Commissioner and facilitator removed
Joke unable to operate
Second Joke

- Terry Lewis made Commissioner
- Ensured promotion of friends and weakening of internal investigations
- Herbert, now in private sector, became broker to re-establish the Joke
- SP Bookies first, then illegal gamblers and finally prostitution
- Those who had helped Whitrod were sidelined and framed
- Ended by public outcry from media investigations and subsequent Fitzgerald Inquiry
Second Joke

Premier

Terry Lewis
Police Commissioner

Jack Herbert

Licensing Branch

Illegal Bookies

Illegal Gambling

Illegal Protection

Protection

Support

$
Second Joke
Findings Map I: First Joke Aggregate Links
Reciprocal relationships – First Joke
Key actors – First Joke
Corrupt support – First Joke
Implications

- Key player organiser/Herbert; Police Commissioner/Bischoff; Relationship facilitator/Murphy
- Maps show that Murphy & Bischoff were the real links in chain to keep it all going
- Herbert was replaceable – always get an organiser
- Bischoff was replaceable – Bower/Lewis
- No one could replace Murphy (maybe Lewis)
- Joke closed for temporary period –
  - Decision based on Whitrod’s intuition
    - Whitrod – moved Murphy & Lewis out of the system
- Premier removed Whitrod from role
  - Lewis & Murphy back
- Joke 2 again
1st Joke Maps (2)

Key actors

Corrupt network
## Measurements – First and Second Joke

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>First Joke</th>
<th>Second Joke</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Density</td>
<td>0.2174</td>
<td>0.1512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Path Length</td>
<td>2.103</td>
<td>2.262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centralisation Degree</td>
<td>21.739 (%)</td>
<td>15.121 (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closeness</td>
<td>49.033</td>
<td>31.448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betweenness</td>
<td>5.251</td>
<td>3.945</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Issue for SNA

• Metrics appear to contradict history

• Maybe caused by:
  o combining chronological story rather than capturing one point in time
  o Using individuals and groups as nodes

• Maybe SNA is telling us what we can’t see?
Discussion

- **Both forms of the Joke were predatory**
  - pay or you don’t operate!
  - Seeking out new opportunities

- **Both forms of the Joke were organised**
  - Planned and strongly developed relationships
  - Strategic partnerships with political players (union and Premier)
  - Characteristics of organised crime (more than one perpetrator, ongoing, serious crime, for profit/power)

- **Strategic attacks on the network can end organised police corruption**
  - Whitrod’s accidental disruption of the network
  - SNA will help identify the structure and weaknesses of individual networks

- **Long term project may identify common themes to assist in corruption prevention through structural and managerial change of police agencies.**
Conclusions

- Corrupt networks operate under the radar
- Hard to get an understanding of structure & relations to intervene or disrupt the network
- SNA – applied here has demonstrated that can move from intuition to informed decision making
- Verified how Whitrod’s intuitive actions work
- Future studies will interrogate other national inquires to gain insights into pattern
- To better inform corruption prevention & investigation